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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	<i>Application Number</i>	09/973,862
	<i>Filing Date</i>	October 11, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Kelly G. AMMANN et al.
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	Unknown
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Unknown
	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	2599-104-D4
	<i>Today's Date</i>	November 15, 2001
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> AUTOMATED DIAGNOSTIC ANALYZER AND METHOD		

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend page 1 of the specification as shown on the attached pages.

A marked-up copy of the original text of specification page 1 is attached to this amendment. Material inserted is indicated by underlining (insertion) and material deleted is indicated by bracketing ([deletion]).